



Winter 2018

PREVENTION Highlights

**Frigid Weather Creates
Unique Hazards:
Be Prepared**

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PREVENTION

Highlights

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Our Mission

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is dedicated to protecting lives and property from the hazards of fire or explosion and will promote prevention, educational and investigative activities to mitigate incidents, promote life safety and deter crimes.

The Fire Prevention Division

The goal of the Fire Prevention Division is to reduce the potential impact of fire and explosion hazards where people live, work and congregate (other than one- or two-family dwellings) through code enforcement, inspections, plans review, licensing, and public education.

Prevention Highlights

Prevention Highlights is published quarterly to provide facility managers and others with information necessary to operate fire-safe facilities.

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Connect with us!



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Edu-Note

by Joel



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Looking back at 2017, things for the OSFM have been very busy, but I have been able to teach others and gain more knowledge for myself. I have had the great opportunity to be able to reach out to many public schools across the state at the Greenbush Maintenance Forum. Thanks to that training time, I have been able to forge many relationships with schools to continue training in hopes of making our schools as safe as possible.

Another highlight of the year was being able to sit in a Tabletop Exercise at the South-Central Kansas Healthcare Coalition Meeting. This meeting had a great focus on Tabletop Exercises like the ones needed to fulfill the Tag 0039 for the Emergency Preparedness requirements. I had not had the privilege to participate in a tabletop exercise before, and this was a great learning experience for me. Upcoming this summer, we have the annual joint Fire Marshal training, and I look forward to being able to conduct a tabletop exercise for all those participating in the training. I found that sitting in an exercise like that was extremely helpful for me to really think through what all of our facilities would need to do in an emergency.

I want to take this moment to thank everybody that has reached out to our office to have me come and do training for their facility this past year. I truly do enjoy teaching, and I love to see how many people do deeply care about the safety of those in their care. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation by our office, please call or send me an email, and I will be happy to work with you and help out in any way. My direct phone number is 785-296-0659 and my email address is joel.c.beckner@ks.gov.

-Joel Beckner, Education Consultant

Welcome...

Cory Standridge, Chad Collins join our Fire Prevention Inspection Team

Cory Standridge has joined our Prevention team as a Fire Prevention Inspector in Independence, KS. Cory was previously a firefighter paramedic in Independence. He brings over six years of fire service experience to OSFM.

Cory, who was born and raised in Southeast Kansas, enjoys his time outside of his fire service career as an ordained pastor in the Nazarene Church and working on remodeling his house. He loves spending time with his two Boston Terriers, Cyrpi and Eros.

"I took this job as an opportunity to grow my experience in fire service," Cory said. "I love people, and especially helping them through difficult situations."

Chad Collins has joined our Prevention team as a Fire Prevention Inspector in the south-central region of Kansas. Chad was a Master Sergeant for 19 years in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. He brings over 15 years of fire service experience to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Chad, who recently moved to Wichita from Oklahoma, is avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife, Kelley, have three daughters, ages 17, 11 and 7. Adding to his busy household are two dogs and three cats.

"I am grateful for this opportunity," Chad said. "And I'm excited to put my years of experience and training to use in Kansas."

Welcome, Cory and Chad!



School Safety

Prom season is right around the corner. Make sure to follow these guidelines with planning and decorating for a safe evening for everyone.

As the second half of the school year gets under way, students are filling the halls, talking about last week's basketball, their teachers, and who they are taking to prom. Some of the most memorable times for students are the school dances...the fun, the music, the decorations!

With all of excitement school dances can bring, it's easy to overlook potential fire hazards, especially when decorating. Following a few simple precautions can keep these events both safe AND fun for all.



- ◆ Make sure all exits are accessible and free from obstructions. Also make sure that all exit signs can be clearly seen and are not hidden by any decorations.
- ◆ The minimum clear width of six feet in exit corridors must be maintained.
- ◆ Artwork on the walls of corridors shall be limited to not more than 20 percent of the wall area unless the materials meet an appropriate level of flame resistance.
- ◆ Never hang any decorations from sprinkler pipes.
- ◆ Portable fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view by any decorations.
- ◆ Maintain a minimum of 18" of clearance between sprinkler heads and any prop or decoration placed underneath it.
- ◆ Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings, or floors, or under doors or floor coverings. Nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact.
- ◆ Do not overload circuits and follow manufacturer directions when using lights, extension cords and power strips.

When in doubt call, Office of the State Fire Marshal and let us help you.



Emergency Preparedness

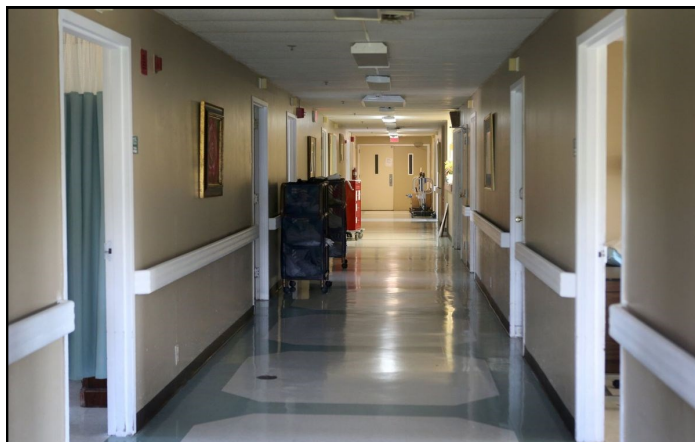
Emergency Preparedness is a key element in the world today. In Kansas, we can experience a vast array of emergency situations from ice storms that bring subzero temperatures in the winter, to violent tornadoes in the summer. It is important that we prepare for whatever situation we encounter.

CMS has now implemented the Emergency Preparedness Ruling, which was published on September 16, 2016 and it applies to all 17 provider and supplier types. The implementation date was November 15, 2017, with compliance required for participation in Medicare.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal will be doing inspections for **ONLY Nursing Homes (LTC) and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)**. Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be conducting the other 15 provider type surveys. So if you are one of these 15 provider types and have questions, please contact them.

Review of Emergency Preparedness plans for LTC and PRTF will occur during the annual Life Safety Code surveys.

If you have any questions about the Emergency Preparedness Ruling, please contact Joel Beckner at joel.c.beckner@ks.gov or 785-296-0659. Training on the Emergency Preparedness rule can be provided to your facility either in person or via webinar.



Newton residential facility staff saves lives and property through quick action

In November, a fire occurred at Asbury Park of Newton. The fire, however, is not the point of this article. The staff of Asbury Park are the heroes of Newton right now.

Fire and EMS Chief Metzler said that the staff “did everything right” and “literally saved the day” by their quick actions and by executing the training to be prepared for any such incidents.

Metzler said that in only a matter of minutes this would have turned into a major fire incident, were it not for those quick and effective actions by the staff.

The staff heard the fire start and immediately removed all 10 residents from the house. Maintenance staff then put out the fire with a fire extinguisher.

The fire was thankfully contained and caused minimal damage.

The OSFM would just like to commend the fast acting men and women of Asbury Park in their actions to make sure the residents were evacuated safely and that the facility received minimum damage.



Generator Remote Stop Switch

By Joel Beckner, Education Consultant



When it comes to generators, one of the top questions that we get at the OSFM is “What are the requirements for the remote stop switch?” This can be a confusing topic but hopefully this will help clear things up.

Let’s take a look at what the code says about the remote stop switch.

In the 2010 edition of NFPA 110, 5.6.5.6-5.6.5.6.1 it says:

“All installations shall have a remote manual stop station of a type to prevent inadvertent or unintentional operation located outside the room housing the prime mover, where so installed, or elsewhere on the premises where the prime mover is located outside the building. The remote manual stop station shall be labeled.”

In addition to this reference, there is one more reference in the code: Appendix A.5.6.5.6

“For systems located outdoors, the manual shutdown should be located external to the weatherproof enclosure and should be appropriately identified.”

With the code referenced, let’s explain things in a little more detail.

- ♦ Remote location means that it shall be located remote from the generator, so it is protected from the impact of adverse generator conditions. The owner and designer determine the location.

For example:

1. For generators located within a building, the remote stop station must be located in a different room than the generator and be separated by a wall and door.
2. For generators located outside, the remote stop station must be located anywhere outside of the generator enclosure.

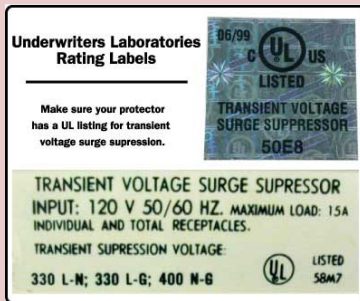
- ♦ The code does not limit the quantity of remote stop stations to one. Multiple remote stop stations may be provided, but at least one must satisfy the minimum requirements of the code.

Hopefully this will clarify some of the confusion.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 785-296-0659 or email me at joel.c.beckner@ks.gov.



Power Strip Educational Facilities



Our office gets questions on a regular basis asking what codes cover the use of power strips. Usually only after a facility has been issued a violation notice for the improper use of power strips.

Below are current adopted fire codes. These items are covered by any of the following code locations depending on the type of occupancy.

- 2006 Edition, NFPA 101 LSC (section 9.1.2)
- 2006 Edition, IFC section (605.4.1)
- 2008 Edition, NEC (article 400)

Power strips, also known as relocatable power taps, strip plugs, temporary power taps or flex cords, were invented and designed to be used as a multiple outlet extension in the laboratory and at home. Officially called relocatable power taps, they are listed by Underwriter Laboratories Inc. under standard UL1363. Those power taps have some degree of electrical surge protection and electrical noise filtering for the protection of sensitive electronic equipment are also known as transient voltage surge suppressors.

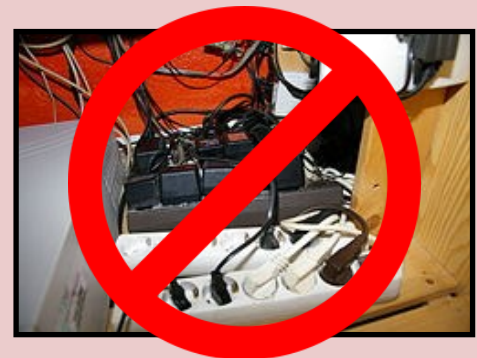
Relocatable power taps and transient voltage surge suppressors are only designed for use with a high concentration of low powered loads, such as computers, audio and video equipment, musical instruments, home movie lighting, home workshops and laboratory equipment. They are not intended for use with high load equipment such as refrigerators, coffee pots, space heaters, microwave ovens, toaster, toaster ovens, fans and shop equipment. Essentially anything with an electric motor and possibly a pulley and belt.

Relocatable power taps and transient voltage surge suppressors are not extension cords. Power taps are not considered temporary wiring. Although one of the alternative names is temporary power taps. The temporary, refers to the physical mounting of the device. Physical mounting of relocatable power taps is permitted if removal does not require the use of tools.

All of the fire code sections above direct us to look at the UL listing 1363, which is an installation instruction for power strips, relocatable power taps, strip plugs, power taps and temporary taps. These above references tell you what they can and can't be used for.

Here is what they are **NOT** intended for:

- Not intended to be series connected (daisy chained) to other relocatable power taps or to extension cords;
- Not intended for use at construction sites and similar locations;
- Not intended to be permanently secured to building structures, tables, work benches or similar structures, nor are they intended to be used as a substitute for fixed wiring; and
- The cords are not intended to be routed through walls, windows, ceilings, floors or similar openings.



Keep in mind the UL requirement on permanent securing. It is often desirable to secure the relocatable power taps to avoid damage, but secured such that no tools are required to remove it. Do use relocatable power taps for their intended purpose and with the intended equipment or loads. Avoid physical damage, exposure to water or wet locations.

Consider the load before plugging into a relocatable power taps. Do not plug in heavy appliances with high-powered loads or into extension cords. Do not use outdoors or on construction sites.



CMS Annual Fire Doors Requirements for Healthcare Facilities

When it comes to fire doors, they are so important in keeping people safe in a building that has unfortunately caught on fire. Countless times, fire investigators have seen how properly working fire doors have saved people's lives and property.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is now requiring all 17 supplier and provider types to have an annual fire door inspection.

The original date for healthcare facilities to have these requirements met was July 5, 2017. However, it was pushed back to Jan. 1, 2018 by CMS.



CMS Fire Doors Requirements

1.

It is well known that qualified individuals must inspect the fire door. However, it is the owner's and property manager's responsibility to provide a list or have knowledge of which doors in their facility are fire doors and need inspecting.

2.

Another good requirement to know has to deal with pictures on the fire door. We all know that exit doors cannot be disguised, but NFPA 80 also says that pictures should not exceed 5 percent of the fire door surface.

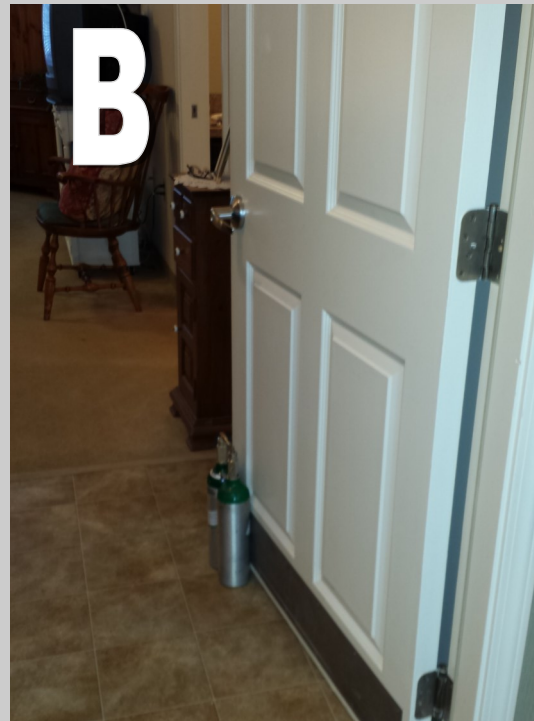
3.

The last requirement to be address is the removal of existing mortise or cylindrical locksets. When this happens, it results in left over holes in the rated fire doors. If the holes are $\frac{3}{4}$ " or less in diameter, they can be filled in with fire door caulk. However, if the holes are $\frac{3}{4}$ " or more in diameter, the fire door will have to be replaced.

Please take time to invest your time to learn the new fire door requirement to be able to keep your occupants and facility as safe as possible.



SPOT the violations



A spiral-bound notebook with a red vertical line on the left side. The pages are lined. Large black letters 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D' are printed on the first four lines of the notebook.

Answers on Page 10



Cribside Space Heaters Recalled Due to Fire, Burn Hazards

Several fire hazard recalls announced by United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

Name of product:
*Sunny CS (cribside)
nursery space heaters*

Hazard: A broken motor mount can allow the electric heating element to come in contact with the interior plastic materials and ignite, posing fire and burn hazards.



Remedy: Replace

Recall date: January 31, 2018

Units: About 5,000 in the U.S. (In addition, about 100 were sold in Canada.)

Name of product: *ThinkPad X1 Carbon Laptops
(5th Generation)*

Hazard: An unfastened screw can damage the battery causing overheating, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date: February 6, 2018

Units: About 78,000 (In addition, about 5,500 were sold in Canada)

Name of product: *Battery packs used in Fujitsu notebook computers and workstations.*

Hazard: The lithium-ion battery packs can overheat, posing burn and fire hazards to consumers.

Remedy: Replace

Recall date: February 8, 2018

Units: About 5,800 in the U.S. and 606 in Canada

Name of product: *Ionic
Pro hair dryers*

Hazard: The cord can become brittle near the base of the dryer, posing burn hazards.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: February 14, 2018

Units: About 73,000 (In addition, about 1,000 units were sold in Canada)



For more information on these recalls and others and to sign up for direct recall notifications, please visit www.cpsc.gov.

**GET ALARMED
KANSAS**

In 2017, OSFM distributed 1,500 smoke alarms through the Get Alarmed Kansas program, more than three times the number from the previous year.

Answers to Spot the Violations (page 9)

A. Blocked fire extinguisher and hood pull stations; B. Oxygen tanks not secured and using it as a hold open device for a corridor door; C. Illegal hold open device preventing a fire door from closing; D. Egress door having too much decoration and totally disguising it as a door.





GET ALARMED KANSAS



FREE Smoke Alarm Program

For the past three years, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has been providing free smoke alarms to Kansas fire departments participating in our **Get Alarmed Kansas** program.

Our Goal: All Kansans protected by working smoke alarms in their homes

Simple Steps Toward a Safer Kansas



To participate in the program, fire departments or other partner agencies must...

- A. Complete an order form indicating the number of smoke alarms requested and sign an agreement ensuring they will be installed properly. The order form is available at FireMarshal.ks.gov/GetAlarmed.
- B. The OSFM will ship or deliver an agreed upon quantity of long-life sealed lithium battery smoke/CO combo alarms to the requesting partner agency.



- A. Any Kansas homeowner is eligible to receive an alarm at no cost; however, they must either have **NO** alarm present, **NO** working alarm or have a manufacturer date that is **10** years or older.
- B. Renters or landlords are not eligible (landlords are required by statute to provide tenants with working smoke alarms). An exception to this rule is for those receiving special alarms for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.
- C. The fire department or other partner agency will arrange to personally deliver and install the smoke alarm at the home of the resident.



- A. Together, the installer and resident will complete the Installation Form (available for download at FireMarshal.ks.gov/GetAlarmed).
- B. Installer should be sure to test the smoke alarm to ensure it is functioning properly.
- C. Completed installation forms should be submitted to kelly.ingold@ks.gov, or by mail to:
Office of the State Fire Marshal, 800 SW Jackson St., Suite 104, Topeka, KS 66612-1216

Questions? Call Kelly Ingold, 785-291-3586, or email kelly.ingold@ks.gov



PUT A ON **FREEZE** WINTER FIRES

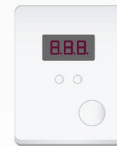
Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, **be fire smart!**

Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of



Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your home.**

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least **once a month.**



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

Heating equipment **1** in every **7** is involved in reported **home fires** and **1** in every **5** home fire deaths.

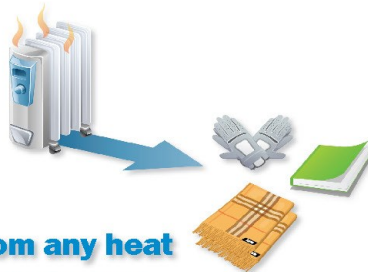


Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least **10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.

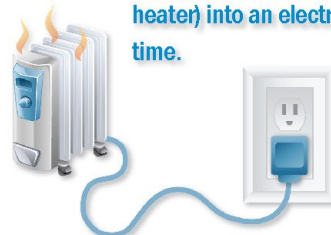


Keep anything that can burn at least

3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

